

ACE Arizona – 900 Hour AmeriCorps Professional Development Member

Work location(s) will take place throughout Arizona. Member housing will be located in Flagstaff, AZ.

Summary: American Conservation Experience (ACE), a non-profit conservation youth corps based in Flagstaff, AZ, provides professional development and outdoor project opportunities to young adults from a wide range of backgrounds. ACE crews work on a variety of environmental projects with several land management agencies throughout the American Southwest. ACE is seeking AmeriCorps Professional Development Members dedicated to working **25 weeks (900 hours)** on a combination of trails, ecological restoration, fencing, fuels reduction, and wildlife survey projects with land management agencies (National Park Service, US Forest Service, etc.) throughout Arizona.

This opportunity is intended for enthusiastic young adults with a background in an environmental field and/or a dedicated interest in pursuing a career in conservation and environmental stewardship. These internships provide the opportunity to learn and train among professional mentors and participate in the execution of significant conservation and land management objectives. AmeriCorps Interns will also gain leadership skills while helping to supervise, train, and generally support ACE conservation volunteers who are rotated through long term projects.

Qualifications: Applicants must have an established interest in conservation issues and/or a background in Forestry or a similar field and should take evident joy in tackling challenging situations with a positive mindset. Applicants must be willing to undertake arduous physical work in all types of weather and terrain and to participate as a team member dedicated to ACE's mission. Preference will be given to former and graduating ACE corps members, graduated members of other conservation corps and those with a history of committed engagement in similar volunteer and outdoors activities.

ACE's AmeriCorps Professional Development Program is meant as a stepping stone to environmental careers and/or as a gateway to potential leadership positions within ACE and other Corps, not only as an interesting and rewarding way to spend up to 25 weeks working in beautiful locations. Applicants should look at this internship as a career opportunity rather than a "job".

Internship Responsibilities and Expectations: Like all ACE participants, ACE places high standards and expectations for AmeriCorps members. All interns must successfully complete their term of service by fulfilling a **900 hour (6 month)** commitment and implementing a volunteer service project within the Flagstaff community. Interns fulfill their commitment by playing a role in accomplishing various conservation projects throughout the American Southwest.

ACE projects require a safe and professional environment, physically demanding manual labor and a positive attitude. Interns must be physically active and expect to hike long distances on rough terrain and persevere through adverse weather conditions. ACE crews typically work 80 hours over 8 or 9 consecutive days. However, ACE crews may be required to participate on projects spanning 4 to 8 weeks at a time.

Interns are expected to play a role in preparing and implementing various ACE projects by coordinating closely with ACE staff members and project sponsors. Interns will be held accountable for making safety a top priority, serving as a positive role model for other corps members and submitting required paperwork in a timely fashion.

Other Requirements:

- Internship is available to US Citizens and Green Card holders only.
- Must be 18 – 25 years of age.
- Interns must have personal medical insurance for the duration of their participation with ACE.
- ACE will provide tents to all interns (upon request) but all other camping items such as sturdy boots, sleeping bags, backpacks, and raingear must be provided by successful applicants.

Remuneration: Interns will obtain a **\$2,822.00 education award** upon successful completion of service. The education award can be allocated towards most past, present and future endeavors in secondary education or vocational pursuits. ACE aims to prevent financial hardship by providing interns with a **\$512.00 bi-weekly living stipend**, free meals/food during all project days as well as free dorm-style housing in Flagstaff during off-days. ACE members save over \$600 per month due to ACE accommodations with free housing and food.

Training: AmeriCorps interns will participate in a week-long training course before leaving for their first project. Training courses include S-212 Chainsaw use, Wilderness First Aid and CPR. Orientations concerning AmeriCorps, ACE, safety, and Leave No Trace ethics will also be included during training week. Depending on the project schedule, interns will gain a hands-on experience in trail construction, dry-stone masonry, ecological restoration, and/or fence installation/removal. Interns will be also gain leadership experience by acting as team leaders.

Start date: September 13, 2014

End date: March 28, 2015

Application deadline: Positions available until filled.

To Apply: Please email your resume, cover letter, and 3 professional references to volunteer@usaconservation.org with "ACE ARIZONA AmeriCorps Internship" in the subject heading of your email.

Applicants must follow all application instructions in order to be considered for this opportunity.

Qualified individuals with disabilities and those from diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. We provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals and conduct all activities in fully accessible settings.

Contact:

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www.usaconservation.org